**USFS - Sequoia National Forest**

Comments submitted by the Department of Parks and Recreation (Department) Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division to individual Grant Applicants should in no way be construed as a guarantee of successful results for the Applicant within the competitive Grants process or a commitment of funding. Additionally, the lack of comments by the OHMVR Division to any specific Applicant does not ensure successful results for the Applicant within the competitive Grant process or a commitment of funding.

All final Applications will be reviewed by the OHMVR Division. The OHMVR Division may, at its sole discretion, decrease the requested amount and eliminate activities pursuant with regulation Section 4970.07.2 (f)(1-5) and for law enforcement Projects, regulation Section 4970.15.3(b)(1-5).

Failure by Applicant to respond to any OHMVR Division comment of their preliminary Application may be cause for eliminating that item from the Applicant’s Application.

If multiple proposed Projects are requesting funding for the same deliverable, and multiple projects are successful, only one project will receive funding for the deliverable.

For proposed Projects requesting Grant funding for snow and/or winter activities. Applicants must ensure the activities and/or Equipment/Heavy Equipment requested are not and/or cannot be funded by the Department’s Winter Program (commonly referred to as the Snow Grooming Program).

*For proposed Projects requesting Grant funding for the maintenance of roads and/or trails, note that only roads and/or trails that allow “green sticker” Off-Highway Vehicles are allowed to receive Grant funding.*

Applicants are reminded that no Grant funds and/or match can be expended, or Project activities conducted in any land owned or managed by the Department except as allowed in the Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program regulations section 4970.09 (b)(10).

**General Evaluation Criteria**

* #2-5 – Applicant must verify responses by final submission.
* #8b – Narrative does not support the selection. Applicant must provide a detailed explanation on the “Recommendations for improvement in species management” and “Components that evaluate the effects of OHV Recreation…”.
* #10 – Narrative does not support the section. Applicant must clarify how much sound testing will be conducted.
* #11a – Narrative does not support the “Free literature...”. Applicant must state how literature provides “describing safe and responsible OHV recreation practices”.
* #13 – Applicant must verify responses by final submission.

**Ground Operations G23-02-15-G01**

***Project Description - Background***

* No comment.

***Project Description – Project Description***

* No comment.

***Project Description – List of Project Deliverables***

* #9 – Applicant must confirm there are no duplication of services (i.e., signage) with the State of California’s Off-Highway Snow Vehicle Grooming contract.

***Project Description – All Others***

* No comment.

***Project Cost Estimate***

* Staff #2 “Staff Assistant OHV Technician” – Applicant must state how many staff will be performing these Project activities.
* Staff #5 “Forest-wide Maintenance Crew” – Line item “Quantity” (QTY) increased compared to the prior year’s Application. Applicant must provide additional details to justify the increase in QTY.
* Staff #6 “Overtime for OHV Staff” – Applicant justified the previous year’s increase for the addition Juneteenth Federal Holiday for the increase in overtime hours. Applicant must provide additional details to justify this year’s Application quantity increase.
* Staff #12 “Volunteer Organizations” – Hourly rate exceeds California’s independent sector volunteer rate of $35.56. Applicant must change the hourly rate equal to and/or less than the California’s independent sector volunteer rate.
* Contracts #1 “Habitat Management Survey” – Applicant’s notes do not match the line item title description. The same description is used for Contracts #5 “Road Maintenance”. Applicant must revise the notes description.
* Materials / Supplies #1 “Misc. Tools & Supply” – Fuel containers are considered an indirect expense as they do not directly relate to the completion of the Project. Applicant must move the verbiage for this item and the cost associated with them to the Indirect Cost category. In addition, Applicant’s notes are inaccurate and need to be revised. Amount did not increase from previous year’s Application.
* Materials / Supplies #7, 8, 9, & 10 – Cost significantly increased compared to prior year’s Application. Applicant must provide additional details to justify the cost.
* Equipment Use Expenses #3 “FS Vehicles Yearly Cost” – Applicant combined all Forest Service vehicles into one line-item. Applicant is reminded only actual costs for the Forest Service vehicles are reimbursed. Applicant must identify in the notes section a use rate for each vehicle type. In addition, Applicant appears to have reversed “Quantity” (Qty) and “Rate”. Applicant must clarify the correct quantity and rate.
* Equipment Use Expenses #4 “Trailer Maintenance” – Trailers are not considered Equipment. Applicant must move this line item to the Others category.
* Equipment Use Expenses #10 “Holdover Dump Truck” – Applicant must clarify how the Equipment will be used on the Project.
* Equipment Purchase #1 “UTV w/ winch and Snow Plow Attachment” – Applicant requested purchase of a UTV in the previous year’s Application. Applicant must confirm and clarify a need for this line item (including winch). In addition, Applicant must identify the cost for the winch and snowplow attachment in the notes section.
* Equipment Purchase #2 “Mini Excavator” – Applicant must confirm and clarify a need for this line item.
* Others #5 “Sound Meter Servicing” – Line item is considered indirect as it does not directly relate to the completion of the Project. Applicant must move this line item to Indirect Cost category.
* Indirect #2 “Sweco/Excavator Training” – Applicant’s notes do not match the line item title description. The same description is used for Materials / Supplies #2 “Carsonites Decals & Sign”. Applicant must revise the notes description

***Evaluation Criteria***

* #3 – Narrative does not support the selection of “Maintaining trails that provide for multiuse”. Applicant must provide example(s) of the activities performed as part of the Project to support the selection.
* #4 – Narrative does not support the selection “The Applicant held a meeting(s), held either in-person or virtual, with multiple distinct stakeholders…”. Applicant must clarify how they are stakeholders to the Project.
* #6 – Narrative does not support the selection of “Protecting special-status species”. Applicant must list a special–status species the work being accomplished is protecting. In addition, Project Deliverables do not support the selection of “Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas” as the Project does not include re-routing of trails.
* #7 – Project Description and/or Project Cost Estimate sections do not support any of the selections except “Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite”.